

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 4-6, 9 and 12; claims 2-3 and 10-11 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4- are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Huart et al, et al. (US 7136398). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claim 2 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The Applicant has incorporated the allowable limitations of claims 2 and 3 into independent claim 1 and the allowable limitations of claim 11 into claim 9. Independent claims 1 and 10 are now allowable and the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of these claims and the respective dependent claims, 6, 8 and 14

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huart et al (US Patent No. 5608651) in view of Lipp et al (US Patent No. 6751238). Claims 4 and 12 now depend from allowable, amended independent claims 1 and 9 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 1 and 9. The Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 4 and 12

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 3, 5, 7, 11, 13 and 15. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 3 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims

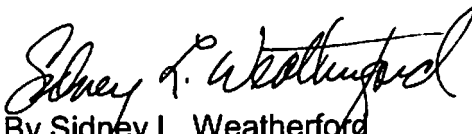
or to create any sort of estoppel. The Applicant respectfully submits that the respective dependent claims are now also allowable. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1,4-9 and 12-15 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,


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